

## Have You Been Dealt a Bad Hand?

2 Timothy 1:8-11

Part 2 – *Suffering*

### Introduction:

- A. Last time in our 2 Timothy study, I likened life to a card game (be careful not to press this imagery too far) and dealt specifically with salvation, where God holds all the cards.
1. God s\_\_\_\_\_ us.
  2. God saved us by His own p\_\_\_\_\_ and grace.
  3. God saved us through Christ's w\_\_\_\_\_.
  4. God saved us by supernaturally c\_\_\_\_\_ us to through the gospel message.
- B. Today's message is about suffering.
1. Everyone suffers in some way.
  2. For the believer, is suffering a bad hand?

### Are you suffering because of sinful choices?

- A. Sometimes we blame others for our wrong choices
1. Adam blamed E\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_ for his action of eating the forbidden fruit; Eve blamed the s\_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 3:8-13).
  2. How many times have you said (or someone said to you) a statement similar to: *If you had not done that, I would not have lost my temper.*
- B. We suffer the c\_\_\_\_\_ of our own sinful choices.
1. Moses disrespected God before the people of Israel by striking the rock twice in anger. The consequence was that he would not l\_\_\_\_\_ the people into the Promised Land (Num 20:7-11).
  2. David's adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah resulted in a d\_\_\_\_\_ family (2 Sam 11:9-12).
  3. When you sin, what consequences might you suffer?
    - a. N\_\_\_\_\_ - e.g. loss of temper breaks relationships.
    - b. Supernatural - God's d\_\_\_\_\_ you to motivate you to turn from your sin (1 Cor 11:30-32; Rev 3:19).
  4. Are any of the above a bad hand? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Sometimes we suffer because of another's sinful choice
1. Have you been lied to, stolen from, abused, etc.?
  2. God promises to use that suffering for our g\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 8:28).
  3. Is the above a bad hand?

### **Are you suffering because of natural circumstances?**

- A. Everyone (believers and unbelievers) suffer naturally
1. Cars \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Pets \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Our bodies \_\_\_\_\_
- B. How believers deal with such suffering SHOULD BE different than how unbelievers deal with it (1 Thess 5:18)
1. In everything we are to give t\_\_\_\_\_ to God
    - a. This does not mean that we must thank God for the car failing or our bodies wearing out, etc.
    - b. This means that we must not s\_\_\_\_\_ thanking God when experiencing such suffering.
  2. Is suffering naturally a bad hand?

### **Are you suffering because of your Christianity?**

*Join me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. – 2 Tim 1:8*

- A. Suffering according to the power of God
1. This suffering comes from the opposition to God's power displayed in the gospel message (see Rom 1:16).
  2. We are to j\_\_\_\_\_ together in this suffering by being l\_\_\_\_\_ witnesses of the transforming power of Jesus Christ.
    - a. Matt 5:14 – we are to be a l\_\_\_\_\_ to the unbelieving world as they see Jesus in us (living holy and godly lives)
    - b. Rev 12:17 – Satan has declared w\_\_\_\_\_ on us.
    - c. Phil 1:29 – Suffering for Christ's sake is considered a g\_\_\_\_\_.
    - d. Rom 8:17 states that we are children of God if we s\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ (see also 1 Jn 3:13).
- B. Is it a bad hand to suffer for your Christianity?

**Conclusion** - The hand of suffering s\_\_\_\_\_ like a bad hand but look at the alternative.

- A. What would happen if we never suffered because of sinful choices? We would continue s\_\_\_\_\_. (God's discipline is a good hand!)
- B. What would happen if we never suffered from natural circumstances (believer's cars never broke down, pets never died, our bodies never aged)? Our d\_\_\_\_\_ to God would never be demonstrated to the unbelieving world.
- C. Suffering because of our Christianity also demonstrates the p\_\_\_\_\_ of God in our lives.